irrigation comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, having end-to-end approach. These initiatives are expected to boost growth in agricultural sector.

Working of KVKs and ATMAs

1945. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are working satisfactorily in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there is a difference of opinion between KVKs and Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) regarding forwarding the action plan through ATMAs; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken to avoid the differences of opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The KVK aims at technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel. A number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs to create awareness of improved agricultural technology, besides availability of seeds and planting materials produced by KVKs among the farmers.

As far as KVKs in Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there are 22 KVKs covering all the rural districts of the State. During the last year, these KVKs have taken up 91 technologies for on-farm trial, 1925 frontline demonstrations, 2430 training programmes benefiting 70,145 farmers and 5089 extension personnel, and 1048 extension activities benefiting 60,614 farmers, besides production of 3759 quintal seed and 1.15 lakh seedlings/saplings for its availability to the farmers.

(c) and (d) The Annual Action Plan of the KVKs are discussed and finalized in the Scientific Advisory Committee having representatives of research, extension, farmers, development departments, and financial institutions. These Action Plans are then approved in the Zonal Workshops. It has been decided to finalize the varieties and place for

frontline demonstrations in consultation with ATMAs, and to give priority for conducting the training programmes as and when requested by ATMAs.

Wastage of agriculture produce

1946. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of agriculture products wasted during the period 2002-2005 due to bad quality of seeds and pesticides, year-wise and product-wise; and

(b) the actions being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Sir, Seed is the basic input in agricultural production system and performance of other inputs is also determined by the quality of seeds, which make a difference in production/ productivity to the extent of about 45%. In India about 80% seeds used are farm saved seeds, which accounts for low seed replacement rate and impacts productivity. However, efforts have been made to enhance agricultural productivity by promoting use of quality seed.

The Quality of Seeds is regulated by the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seed (Control) Order, 1983, which prescribe minimum seed standards and address issues related to production and distribution of seeds. In order to ensure supply of quality pesticides to farmers, the Government of India along with State Government regulates the import, manufacture, production and sale of pesticides under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Act has sufficient provisions to regulate the quality of pesticides distributed to the farmers. Punitive actions are taken against the manufacturer/dealer of spurious and misbranded pesticides.

Impact of agricultural import on Indian agriculture

1947. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study in Uttaranchal